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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Confirmation No.:

Applicant

Aeby et al

Filed

Herewith

TC/A.U.

Examiner

Docket No. :

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Customer No.:

23439

Mail Stop PCT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicants herewith submit a Preliminary Amendment for U.S. national phase examination of enclosed application corresponding to PCT/IB2003/003135 (WO 2004/007812 A1). Applicants will submit the required declarations as soon as possible.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 3 of this paper.